

From: David Witt
To: 'microsoft.atr(a)usdoj.gov'
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Subject: ms penalties

deal DOJ-

as a technical computer user and graphic/interactive designer, i have been on the front lines of the pc wars for 10+ years--although i use multiple OS's, i most definitely prefer Macintosh, and as such, it has been painful for me to witness the numerous 'dirty tricks' that Microsoft has pulled over the years in effort to lock users into their platform and programs. i won't go into details, but will make a few comments, and then make a proposal for penalties:

first off, it is ridiculous to claim that Microsoft is an 'innovator'--it is well known that Microsoft's 'innovation' is to either buy a smaller company's technology or create copycat programs, which they then leverage into the marketplace using their installed base.

secondly, Microsoft hinders computer users worldwide by not adhering to standards developed by industry consortiums--they want consumers to think that a 'standard' is something like Microsoft Word--their 'extend and embrace' model means that they create a largely compliant product, but then alter crucial code so as to induce confusion, uncertainty and doubt into the marketplace, hopefully locking customers into their platform 'for their own good'.

i am not optimistic that this judgement will change Microsoft's behavior, unless there is substantial remedy, and i don't mean money--here is my proposal:

Force Microsoft to publish ALL APIs for their Windows operating systems--including the so-called 'hidden APIs'--this would allow developers for Windows software to be on a level playing field w. Microsoft's own engineers, as well as allow outside scrutiny of their code. it has been long speculated that Microsoft maintains a huge advantage in developing for Windows because it alone has access to many APIs that outside developers never see

I would like to see additional penalties/remedies, but have no further suggestions--my opinion is that Microsoft has and continues to leverage it's monopoly position for its own gain, and to the extreme detriment of its competitors and its own customers, and without considerable remedy, and lasting monitoring, they will continue unabated, as their recent XP expansion suggests...

sincerely,
-David Witt
Interactive Designer

